

To Whom It May Concern:

I can't fathom the kind of mind-set it would take to knowingly hurt a sentient and completely helpless creature. Yet, since the 1920s, scientists have studied acute toxicity using lethal poisoning tests in which animals are force-fed, injected with, or forced to inhale a chemical until they die.

Is this what a scientist must do? I think not. I do not believe in "necessary" evils. That is why I am taking this opportunity to voice my opinion regarding the EPA's HPV chemical testing program. I am thankful to know that someone who has influence is finally willing to listen to the belief of an average, good-hearted citizen like myself.

At a minimum, ALL government agencies that currently require the acute animal-poisoning studies should IMMEDIATELY incorporate the in vitro cell culture method as a transitional means of reducing the number of animals killed and should fully support the use of this method as an eventual REPLACEMENT for lethal-dose poisoning studies. In particular, the EPA must immediately incorporate the non-animal cell culture method into its HPV chemical program, as promised in its October 1999 agreement with the animal protection community.

I thank you sincerely for your consideration.

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